

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 SY-05 SCCT-01 AID-05 OMB-01

ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OC-05

CCO-00 A-01 OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 USSS-00 /089 W

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R 201308Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9672

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, TU

SUBJECT: STUDENT DISTURBANCES

REF: ANKARA 4624

SUMMARY: ALTHOUGH THE STUDENT BOYCOTT HAS BEEN RESUMED AT MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY AND OTHER MINOR STUDENT INCIDENTS HAVE OCCURRED, STUDENT ACTIVISM APPEARS TO BE DECLINING DURING THE EXAMINATION PERIOD PRECEDING THE END OF THE PRESENT ACADEMIC YEAR. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 17 THE INTERMITTENT STUDENT BOYCOTT WAS RESUMED AT MIDDLE EAST TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY (METU). ON JUNE 16, THE DEADLINE SET BY STUDENTS FOR A UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION RESPONSE TO STUDENT DEMANDS MADE PRIOR TO A TEMPORARY RETURN TO CLASSES JUNE 12, METU RECTOR TARIK SOMER HAD ANNOUNCED THAT THE ACADEMIC YEAR WOULD BE EXTENDED UNTIL THE END OF JULY TO MAKE UP FOR CLASS TIME LOST TO BOYCOTTS. FURTHER, IN RESPONSE TO THE STUDENT DEMAND THAT CAMPUS-STATIONED JANDARMA TROOPS BE REDUCED,

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A SMALL CENTRALIZED JANDARMA POST WAS ESTABLISHED ON CAMPUS

IN PLACE OF MORE WIDE-RANGING PATROLLING. RECTOR SOMER GAVE NO ASSURANCES CONCERNING THE DEMAND THAT NO DISCIPLINARY ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST METU STUDENTS WHO HAD ENGAGED IN POLITICAL ACTIVISM. FOLLOWING THE RESUMPTION OF THE BOYCOTT, BARIOUS FACULTY GROUPS ISSUED STATEMENTS CALLING FOR A RETURN TO CLASSES.

2. COMMENT: AS ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AT METU TOLD US THAT NEARLY ALL FACULTY MEMBERS NOW BACK THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION. FACULTY MEMBERS REPORTEDLY FEEL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION HAS NOW GONE FAR ENOUGH IN MEETING STUDENT DEMANDS AND THAT CONTINUED STUDENT ACTIVISM IS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED RATHER THAN BASED UPON LEGITIMATE ACADEMIC GRIEVANCES.

3. IN ADDITION TO THE METU BOYCOTT, A FEW SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF STUDENT UNREST HAVE TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY. ON JUNE 15 CLASHES BETWEEN EXTREME RIGHTIST AND LEFTIST STUDENTS AT HOSTELS OF BLACK SEA TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY SPREAD IN THE CITY OF TRABZON. A MINOR CLASH OF "COMMANDOS" AND LYCEE STUDENTS OCCURRED JUNE 17 NEAR ANKARA'S ATATURK LYCEE. A SIMILAR INCIDENT OCCURRED IN ELAZIG ON JUNE 18. ON JUNE 19 POLICE CLOSED THE TRABZON REVOLUTIONARY CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, AN EXTREME LEFTIST GROUP, AFTER A SEARCH OF THE GROUP'S HEADQUARTERS UNCOVERED KNIVES, CLUBS AND OTHER LIGHT WEAPONS.

4. ELSEWHERE, THE STUDENT BODIES OF THE LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTIES OF ANKARA UNIVERSITY, INVOLVED IN SPORADIC INCIDENTS EARLIER IN THE SCHOOL YEAR, WERE QUIETLY AND BUSILY ENGAGED IN FINAL EXAMINATIONS. BERGUS

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